

HOUSE No. 119

By Mr. LeDuc of Marlborough (by request), petition of David Hudson relative to further regulating nomination papers and initiative petition signature papers. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE FAIR BALLOT INITIATIVE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 1) Replace the final sentence of Chapter 53 Section 47 and of
2 Chapter 53 Section 17 each with the following:

3 “In no case shall any blank forms for such nomination papers
4 be larger than eight and one half inches by fourteen inches, nor
5 shall anyone be prohibited from making copies, exact per standard
6 photocopying technologies or as specified by the Secretary of the
7 Commonwealth, regardless of prior or subsequent markings, of
8 such forms provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth for
9 the purpose of collecting signatures, nor shall any such copies be
10 rejected for certification or submittal to the Secretary of the Com-
11 monwealth for that purpose.”

12 2) Replace the final sentence of Chapter 53 Section 22A with
13 the following, so as to keep it identical in intent with the pre-
14 ceding, modified final sentences:

15 “In no case shall any blank forms for such petition papers be
16 larger than eight and one half inches by fourteen inches, nor shall
17 anyone be prohibited from making copies, exact per standard pho-
18 tocopying technologies or as specified by the Secretary of the
19 Commonwealth, regardless of prior or subsequent markings, of
20 such forms provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth for
21 the purpose of collecting signatures, nor shall any such copies be
22 rejected for certification or submittal to the Secretary of the Com-
23 monwealth for that purpose.”

24 3) Replace the words “preceding biennial state election” in the
25 first sentence of the definition for “political party” in Chapter 50
26 Section 1 with the words “preceding two biennial state elections”.

27 4) Append the following sunset provision, effective 1
28 December 2007, to the definition of “political designation” in
29 Chapter 50 Section 1:

30 “Such a request, implicit on behalf of the identically-worded
31 political designation in the loss of political party status by a polit-
32 ical party, shall remain effective while:

33 1) two biennial state elections and the subsequent end of year
34 shall not have intervened; or

35 2) at least 50 voters shall have newly registered with such des-
36 ignation in the period from one biennial state election to the end
37 of year following the next biennial state election; or

38 3) another such request, valid and effectively renewing the cur-
39 rent request, shall not have been submitted to the Secretary of the
40 Commonwealth.”